



Spain shines at the Decanter World Wine Awards 2021

Spain had an impressive year, winning twice as many Best in Show medals than in 2020. There was a strong Platinum medal showing too, again up on the previous year, with wines from across the country shining.

7 JULY, LONDON: After two weeks of rigorous, and for the second year-running COVID-safe, judging in London's Canary Wharf, the results of the Decanter World Wine Awards 2021 are finally here, and Spain has much to shout about, winning almost 100 Best in Show, Platinum and Gold medals combined.

Now in its 18th year, the Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA) is the world's largest and most influential wine competition. More than 160 judges, including 44 Masters of Wine and 11 Master Sommeliers, judged 18,094 wines from 56 countries at this year's edition, making it a record year for wines tasted.

In total 2021 saw 50 Best in Show, 179 Platinum and 635 Gold medals awarded, making up 0.28%, 0.99% and 3.51% respectively of the total wines tasted.

Spain claimed 9 Best in Show medals, an impressive 18% of those awarded, as well as 20 Platinum and 63 Gold medals. The Best in Show haul included wines from right across the country including Rioja, Priorat, Rías Baixas, Sherry, Ribeira Sacra, Aylés and Conca de Barberà.

Notable Best in Show wines across Spain included the **Mar de Ons, Albariño 2020** which won a Value Best in Show medal, offering exceptional value at less than £15. It was noted by the judges for its 'fragrance and its vivacity, its lightness and its elegance, its pungency and its pithiness.'

Elsewhere the **Hacienda López de Haro, Classica Gran Reserva 2004** from Rioja thrilled the panel with its 'plush, rich, almost smoky fruits', and in the Sherry region there was a Best in Show medal for the **Osborne Solera AOS Rare Amontillado** which boasted aromatic intensity. "A small glass of this distinguished vinous antique will provide hours of happy sipping," said the judges. Both received 98 points alongside **Scala Dei, Heretge Carinyena 2017** from Priorat - three of just 14 wines in the entire competition to receive this high score.

Sarah Jane Evans MW, DWWA Co-Chair and Regional Chair for Spain commented: "It's one of the most exciting countries to judge because you really do get a bit of everything. What I find exciting about Spain is if you ask anyone about the country's wines they'll tell you about Rioja, maybe Sherry and then possibly Ribera del Duero. But the really great thing about being a judge for Spain is that you also get these delicate reds from Bierzo and Galicia, then Albariño from Rias Baixas, lovely Garnacha Blancas from Catalunya and all kinds of other exciting styles that pop up."

Fellow Spain judge Matt Wilkin MS added: "I really enjoyed a lot of the white Riojas we had. Sherry is always a privilege and a pleasure to taste. It's one of the great wine regions of the world for the price that you pay, you get so much complexity and multi-layers. We saw some fantastic wines from Ribera del Duero and then some other wines coming out of the rest of the country that are a bit more esoteric - we've seen a lot of cracking wines there, either individual grape varieties or blends."

Andrew Jefford, DWWA Co-Chair, said, "DWWA is the world's leading wine competition. I'm absolutely thrilled to take part in it every year because having tasted in a number of other competitions I know how well it's organised, how carefully everything is done. So if you get a medal from DWWA it really is worth having and everybody respects it internationally. We get entries from every corner of the wine world, so it is as it were the closest you can get to a universal benchmark."

Visit <https://awards.decanter.com/DWWA> to view a full list of winners.

ENDS

The Decanter World Wine Awards Co-Chairs and key spokespeople are available for interviews, please use the contact details below to arrange.

For press office enquiries please contact:

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Notes to Editors

Spain was awarded a total of 1,841 medals, with nine Best in Show, 20 Platinum, 63 Gold, 597 Silver and 1152 Bronze.

The following wines won the nine Best in Show medals:

- Scala Dei, Heretge Carinyena, Priorat 2017
- Osborne, Solera AOS Rare Amontillado, Sherry NV
- Hacienda López de Haro, Classica, Gran Reserva, Rioja 2004
- La Conreria d'Scala Dei, Voltons, Priorat 2017
- Real Agrado, Las Planas Viura, Reserva, Rioja 2016
- Familia Torres, Grans Muralles, Conca de Barberà 2017
- Cuesta Del Herrero, Finca Aylés, Aylés 2020 (Value Best in Show)
- Mar de Ons, Albariño, Rías Baixas 2020 (Value Best in Show)
- Matilda Nieves, Mencía, Ribeira Sacra 2020 (Value Best in Show)

About DWWA

Launched in 2004 and now in its 18th year, the Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA) is the world's largest and most influential wine competition.

It is the trusted relationship that Decanter - the world's leading wine media brand - has with an international audience of both consumers and trade that sets DWWA apart from other competitions.

Sustainability is a key focus for the DWWA team. All plastic and cardboard is collected and recycled, while every bottle is crushed and remelted, ready to be remade into usable glass within 30 days. All leftover wine is also collected, recycled and sold back into the national grid as gas.

Full details on the judging process can be found [here](#).

The PPA Awards 2021

DWWA recently won *Event of the Year* at the prestigious PPA Awards 2021. More information [here](#).

About Decanter

Decanter is the world's leading wine media brand with a total monthly reach in excess of 2.2 million via our print magazine, websites and social media channels.

Engaging with wine lovers in over 100 countries around the globe, Decanter provides authoritative content, independent advice and inspirational events and competitions.

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